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CORRECTION ISSUED: 2/17/61, 5 PM MLJ

Control: 9424

Rec'd: February 15, 1961 DC/MR
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REVIEWED BY D. ACHAP DATE 2/18/83

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Action

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FROM: Brussels - CORRECTED COPY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1499, February 15, 7 p.m.

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NIACT

EMBTEL 1494.

Officials Ministry Justice now process identifying bodies which being held at Sabena Airport under guard. Will be impossible make any positive identifications before tomorrow.

Sabena has now made available to Embassy list passengers received from New York office by TELEX and is now in process notifying through New York office relatives basis known addresses which may or may not be correct. List provided by Sabena includes 49 US citizens.

Embassy plans report to Department names those citizens formally identified after receipt such confirmation from Ministry Justice.

Sabena prepared return to US remains deceased American citizens and has requested instructions of individual relatives notified. Since bodies in very bad state and severely burned Embassy requests instructions 1) whether embalmment mandatory and 2) whether bodies may be sent hermetically sealed coffins to mortuary in New York City with instructions coffins not to be opened.

In absence instructions Embassy will continue assist in identifying bodies and if necessary will call upon Colonel Wardel, head, Army Mortuary Center, Frankfurt who has offered services if agreeable to Belgian authorities. In interim referring interested callers to Sabena office Brussels or Sabena office New York.

BURDEN

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Correction made by RM/R

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